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DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MAGAZINE

Vol. LV **Contents** No. 3

MARCH, 1921

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WASHINGTON AS A SURVEYOR

FROM FROST'S "PICTORIAL LIFE OF WASHINGTON," 1847

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MAGAZINE

VOL. LV, No. 3 MARCH, 1921 WHOLE No. 343

WASHINGTON AS SURVEYOR AND MAP-MAKER

By P. Lee Phillips

Chief, Division of Maps, Library of Congress

IN the year 1747, when Washington had arrived at the manly age of fifteen, a conference was held in which the family deliberated upon a suitable profession for him. He was offered many inducements to become a midshipman in the service of His Majesty, the King of Great Britain. In those days, no one of gentle birth would descend from the social status of a "gentleman" (a word which conveyed lofty aspirations and superior attainments), and outside of the army or navy, there were not many positions worthy of consideration. After some deliberation the profession of surveyor was chosen for him.

At that period there were immense tracts of land comparatively unknown; the grantee, in some cases, was not even certain how far his boundaries extended or whether he rightly owned the land to which he laid claim. Surveying was, therefore, not only a lucrative profession, but one of much consideration. Socially it also carried great weight, as it required much knowledge of the country and the people therein. There is no question that the selection of this profession was the foundation of Washington's great strategic ability as a military leader, since it led him to a knowledge of the country and how to defend it.

Among the eighteen thousand pieces in Washington's wonderful penmanship in the Library of Congress, are found numerous surveys with drawn plats, showing his application and success. "A book of surveys began July 22^{d}, 1749," shows his industry at the age of seventeen. The earliest drawing which has come to light is a survey of Mount Vernon, made when he was about fifteen years of age. This was the first of the many which he made of his much-loved domain. In connection with this

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FAC SIMILE.

Copied from a Manuscript in the handwriting of

WASHINGTON.

A

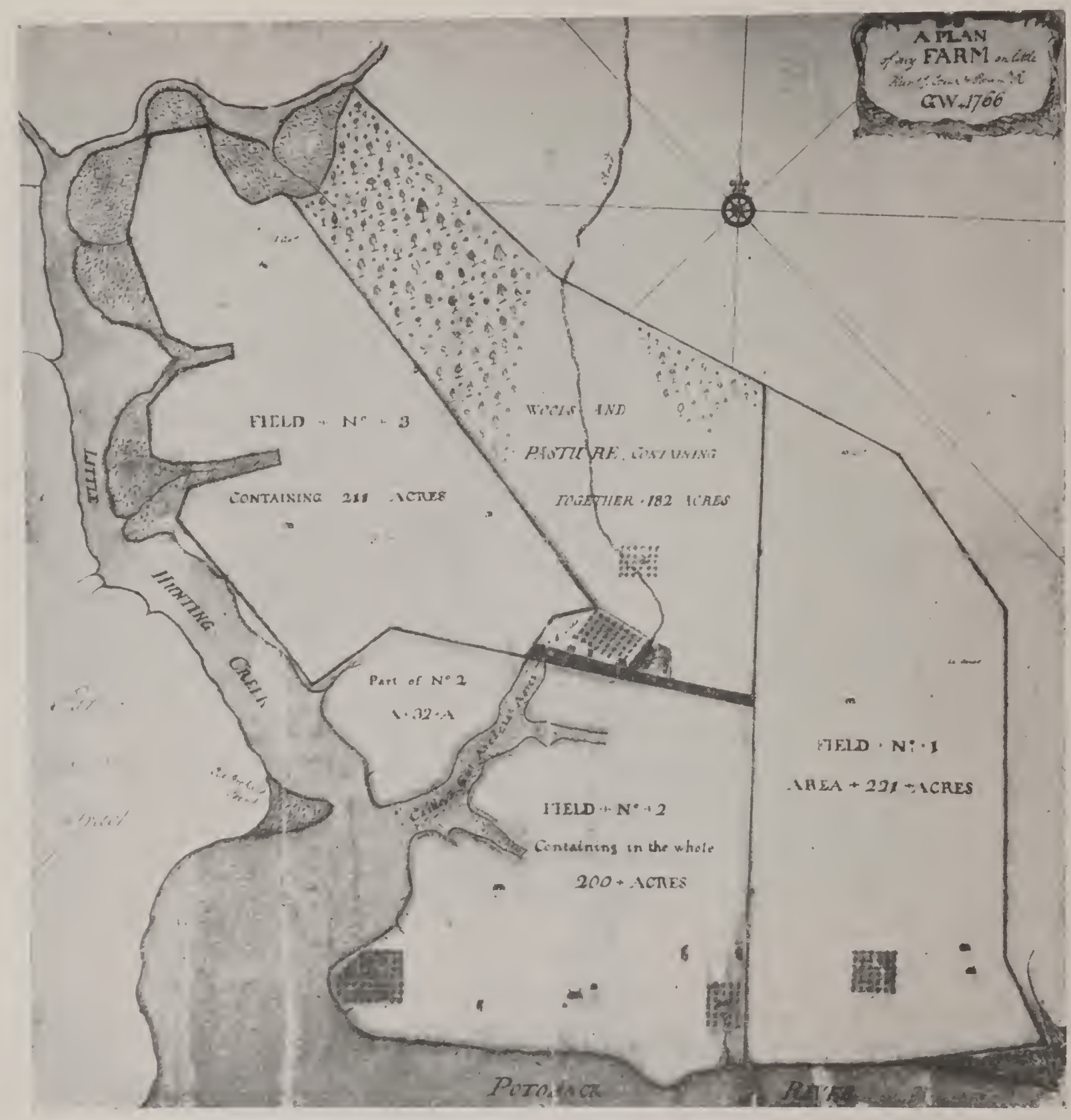
BOOK of SURVEY'S

Began

JULY 22d 1749

PAGE FROM WASHINGTON'S "BOOK OF SURVEYS"

it would be well to mention a beautiful drawing by Washington, in the Library of Congress, measuring 18 by 17 inches, entitled "A Plan of my Farm on little Hunt$^{g.}$ Creek & Potom$^{k.}$ R. G. W. 1766." This drawing has been so well photo-



WASHINGTON'S PLAN OF HIS FARM

lithographed by DeLancey Gill, that copies have been sold as the original, with his name torn from the lower left border.

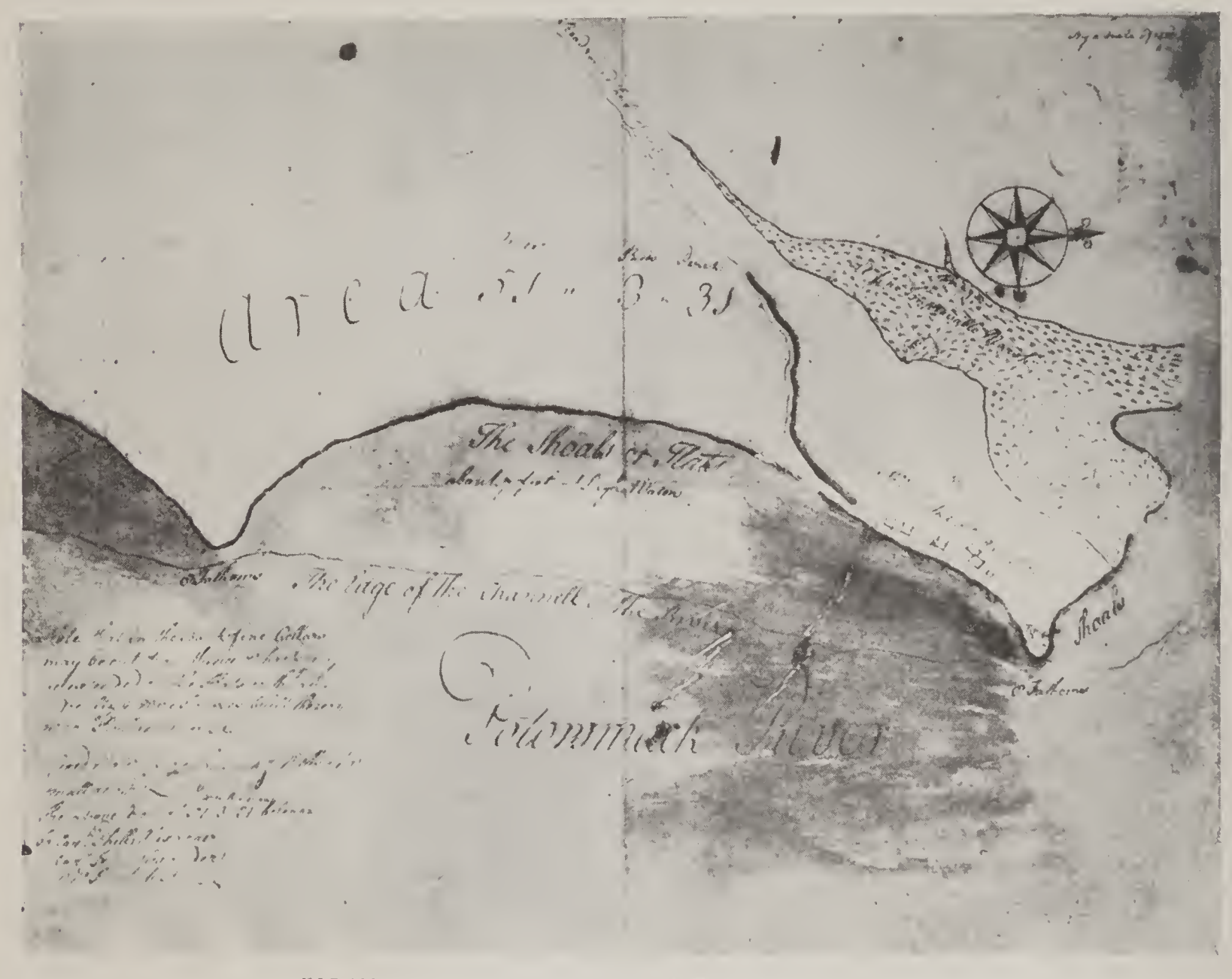
As to Washington's early education as a surveyor, Paul Leicester Ford says in his "The True George Washington": From his *Young Man's Companion* Washington had already learned the use of Gunter's rule and how it should be used in surveying, and to complete his knowledge he seems to have taken lessons of the licensed surveyor of Westmoreland County, James Genn, for transcripts of some of the surveys drawn by Genn still exist in the handwriting of his pupil. This implied a distinct and very valuable addition to his knowledge, and a large number of his surveys still extant are marvels of neatness and careful drawing. As a profession it was followed only four years (1747–1751), but all through life he often used his knowledge in measuring or platting his own property. Far more important is the service it was to him in public life. In 1755 he sent to

Braddock's secretary a map of the "back country," and to the Governor of Virginia plans of two forts. During the Revolution it helped him not merely in the study of maps, but also in the facility it gave him to take in the topographical features of the country. Very largely, too, was the selection of the admirable site of the capital due to his supervising: all the plans for the city were submitted to him, and nowhere do the good sense and balance of the man appear to better advantage than in his correspondence with the Federal city commissioners.

While the student should be given due credit for bringing to light many historic documents, he has, however, been stimulated by the prices which such material has brought within recent years. From this exploiting has come to light, a plan and survey of Alexandria, Va., which is now in the possession of the Library of Congress. As there is no mention made of this work in any notice of Washington's writings, a full description may be of interest:

Plat of the land whereon Stands the Town of Alexandria. By a Scale of 15 Po to ye inch. 12¼ x 15½. [1748] A plan of Alexandria now Belhaven. 12⅜ x15⅜. [1749].

Alexandria is located on land which formed



FIRST SURVEY OF THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA
BY WASHINGTON, 1748

part of a large grant to Robert Howsen in 1669. Howsen sold his land to John Alexander in 1677. In 1730, a public tobacco warehouse was established on this tract and the hamlet which clustered about it was called Belhaven, and was known by that name until the town was laid off under an act of the General Assembly of the Colony of Virginia which was passed in 1748. This act authorized the surveying and laying out of a town at "Hunting Creek Warehouse on Potomac River," the town to cover sixty acres of land, "parcel of the lands of Philip Alexander, John Alexander and Hugh West," and "that the said town shall be called by the name of Alexandria."

The trustees appointed for the town included Lord Fairfax, William Fairfax, George Fairfax, Richard Osborne, Lawrence Washington, William Ramsey, John Carlyle, John Pagan, Gerard Alexander, Hugh West, and Philip Alexander. The surveys having been made in accordance with the charter, here marked, "Area 51 acres 3 Roods 31 Perch." At the upper end of the area, buildings are indicated and marked "Mr. Hugh Wests Ho. & Ware Hoss." The road upon which these buildings are indicated extends from "Ware Ho. Point" through the area and is marked, "Road round. Hd. of the Crk &c." Be-

PLAN OF ALEXANDRIA
BY WASHINGTON, 1749

the first meeting of the trustees on September 20th, deeds for these lots were executed.

Of these two maps of Alexandria drawn by George Washington the earliest is the "Plat of the Land whereon Stands the Town of Alexandria," the title being noted on the reverse of the map, probably at some later date. It is an outline of the area to be covered by the town which is yond the road is "A fine Improvable Marsh." Along the water front, the river is marked, "The Shoals or Flats about 7 feet at High Water," and a line farther out in the river reads, "The Edge of the Channell of the River. 8 Fathoms." The following note appears at the foot of the map, "Note that in the Bank fine Cellars may be cut, from thence wharves may be extended on the Flats witht. any difficulty & ware

Housses built thereon as in Philadelphia &c. Good Water is got by sink[g.] wells at a small depth. The above area of 51 Acres 3 R 31 Perch belongs to Cap[t.] Phill. Alexander, Cap[t.] John Alexander, M[r.] Hugh West."

This map was evidently made in 1748 when Washington was seventeen years old, after his return from his surveying expedition on the lands of Lord Fairfax in the Northern Neck of Virginia, 1747–1748, and after the passing of the act by the General Assembly. In Washington's *Journal* of 1747–1748, the only reference he makes to a survey of Alexandria follows a place where several pages are torn out.

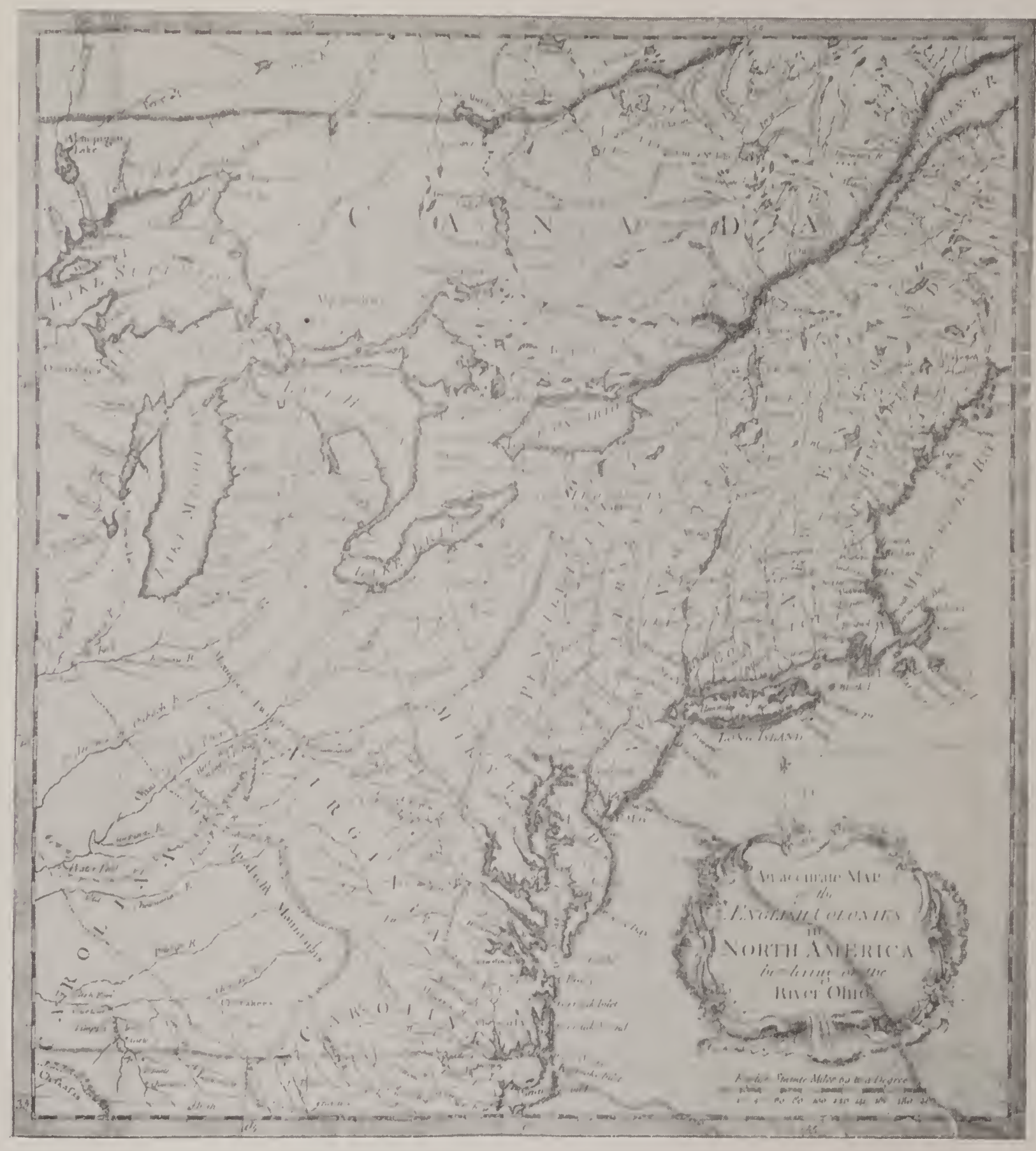
The other map, "A plan of Alexandria, now Belhaven," was evidently made prior to the organization of the municipal government at the first meeting of the trustees on July 13, 1749, while the town was still called Belhaven. This map was used for the sale of lots which took place on the 14th and 15th of July, and has a list of the purchasers, numbers of the lots, and price given in pistoles. The town is laid out in eighty-four lots with ten streets, Orinoko, Princess, Queens, Cameron, King, Prince, Dukes, Water, Fairfax, and Royal. The river in front of the town is marked, "4 & 5 feet Water," and at the extreme of the town, "8 Fathom Water." On the opposite shore in Maryland a house is indicated, marked "M[rs.] Addison's."

The list of purchasers reads:

No.	Proprietors' Names	
1	Col[o.] W. Fitzhugh	26½
2	Jn[o.] Pagan	10½
3	W[m.] Hicks, Esq[r.]	10
4		
40	Harry Piper	16
20		
21	Roger Lindon	45½
36	Jn[o.] Dalton	19
31	Garr[d.] Alexander	19½
26	Allan McCrae	22
41	John Caryle	30
46	W[m.] Ramsey	30
51	Lawrence Washington	31
56		
57	Hon. W[m.] Fairfax	35
62		
63	Col[o.] Geo. Fairfax	39
69		
70	Col[o.] Nath[l.] Harrison	46
77		
78	Nath[l.] Chapman	56½
32	Garr[d.] Alexander	20
27	John Alexander	8
37	John Dalton	16
42	John Carlyle	16
52	Law. Washington	16
47	W[m.] Ramsey	16
71	Henry Fitzhugh	16
33	Hugh West	8
38		
39	Henry Saleald	23
48	John Pagan	13½
49	John Alexander	15
79	Ralph Wormeley, Esq.	10
45	Charles Mayson	10½
50	Adam Stephens	11½
53		
55	George Mayson	15
24	William Munday	11
54	William Strother	7
59	Col[o.] W. Fitzhugh	7
60	John Peyton	8
72		
73	John West Sen[r.]	15
64		
65	Augustine Washington	15
80		
81	Anne West	12
66		
67	W[m.] Henry Jerrett	10
74		
75	Pearson Jerrett	10
58	John Champe	8
83		
84	George West	8
68		
76	Hugh West, Jun[r.]	8
82	W[m.] West, Jun[r.]	4
	Sold for Pistoles	774

These plans set at rest the doubt, often expressed, that Washington had in any way assisted in the laying out of the city. There is no city in the United States which is so permeated with the spirit of this great man as Alexandria, for the "Father of his

country" looked upon it as his much-loved child. Alexandria has now a population of about eighteen thousand; in 1776, about five thousand. In the



SHOWING SPECIFIC LOCATION WHERE "HERE C. WASHINGTON ENGAGED Ye FRENCH, 1754"

years preceding and following the Revolution, before the too great rivalry of Washington, Baltimore and Norfolk, it had anchored at its wharves ships from all parts of the world, and it even set the fashions for the northern tourists. The discovery of this first plan of Alexandria, which shows a keen and intelligent knowledge of such work, confirms us in the belief that the designing of the city of Washington was as much the work of Washington as of L'Enfant.

The illustration "An accurate map of the English Colonies in North America, bordering on the River Ohio,"

measuring 13½ by 18½ inches with border, is the earliest literary production in which Washington is mentioned. Scanning the map you will find noted between the "Ohio or Bell River" and the "Monongohela R," the statement, "Here C. Washington engag'd ye French, 1754." The "C" evidently is an abbreviation of "Colonel." The map is bordered on each side by an historical statement in which Washington figures:

About the beginning of June, 1754, the Governour of Virginia sent Colonel Washington at the head of four hundred men to keep them at bay, till more forces should arrive. The Colonel being informed that thirty-five of the French were within a day's march of him, with a design to intercept his convoy of provisions for the army, went in quest of them with a detachment of forty-five men, who on the way were joined by the Half-King, a considerable monarch, with twelve Indians. The next day they came up with the enemy, kill'd eleven, took twenty-one prisoners, and the three that fled were brought back, and scalp'd by the Indians. The English had only one kill'd and three wounded. Among the prisoners was M. le Force, a man of great consequence among the French. July 3d the English camp was alarm'd by two men, who came up to one of our centries, shot him in the heel, and fled. About an hour after, four Indians came and informed, that the enemy was on their march; upon which the English threw up trenches round their Fort in the Meadows. Soon after the enemy were seen marching down the woods, to the number of about nine hundred. The Colonel, who had but three hundred and fifty men to oppose them drew them up in order of battle, just as the French enter'd the meadow. One of our centries fir'd and kill'd three and returned to the fort. The French retired to the woods, while the Colonel sent a party to take possession of a wood opposite the fort; but the officer as he was marching, cried out, that the enemy would take possession of the fort, and immediately ordered his men to the right about, and so fled to the fort, the French firing at them all the time, and wounding many before they could get thither. The engagement lasted from ten in the morning till seven at night. The enemy fired from behind the trees, and the English from the fort and trenches. The gunner, when he had fired one round of his artillery, which did great execution, retired into the fort, and would fire no more. At seven o'clock the enemy called a parley, and offer'd us terms of capitulation; upon which the Colonel called a council of war, who maturely considering their circumstances, that they had not provisions for two days, that the excessive rains had render'd their army unfit for service, and, that they had a great number of men kill'd and wounded, judg'd it proper to accept of honourable terms. Upon which Captain Van Bramm was sent to receive their proposals. The articles agreed to were, that the English should deliver up the Fort by day-break, and be allow'd to march out with drums beating, and colours flying, with their arms and all their stores, except cannon; not to build any more forts on the French territories, or bear arms against his most Christian Majesty for the space of one year . . .

While it is very reasonable to suppose that Washington made maps when participating in the French and Indian wars in 1754, the Braddock expedition in 1755, and various other colonial wars, the only authentic one is found in the Jared Sparks collection, Cornell University, Ithica, N. Y. It is entitled "Washington's manuscript sketch of Fort Cumberland," measuring about 12 by 13 inches. A reprint is found in Avery's "History of the United States," vol. iv, p. 207, and also in *Journal of American History*, vol. ii, p. 402. Others may come to light to add new luster to this wonderful man.

So far as the writer has been able to find in the various published letters of Washington, the only references to contemporaneous maps are in a letter addressed to Benjamin Harrison, Governor of Virginia, from Mount Vernon, October 10, 1784:

It has long been my decided opinion, that the shortest, easiest and least expensive communication with the invaluable and extensive country back of us would be by one or both of the rivers of this State, which have their sources in the Apalachian mountains. Nor am I singular in this opinion. Evans, in his Map and Analysis of the Middle Colonies, which, considering the early period at which

they were given to the Public, are done with amazing exactness, and Hutchins since, in his Topographical Description of the western country, a good part of which is from actual surveys, are decidedly of the same sentiment; as indeed are all others, who have had opportunities, and have been at the pains, to investigate and consider the subject.

But that this may not now stand as mere matter of opinion and assertion, unsupported by facts (such at least as the best maps now extant, compared with the oral testimony, which my opportunities, in the course of the war have enabled me to obtain), I shall give you the different routes and distances from Detroit."

The Evans' map referred to was published in 1755; that of Hutchins' in 1778. Why he does not refer to the maps of Fry and Jefferson (1751), and of Henry (1770), is a matter of conjecture. These two maps of Virginia which embraced most of the country then known as the United States, are of great geographical and historical interest. Jefferson was the father of President Thomas Jefferson and Henry, the father of Patrick Henry.

The only known copy of the original engraved Fry and Jefferson map, 1751, is found in the New York Public Library and came to it in the purchase of the George Bancroft library. Other editions were published in 1755, 1768, and 1775. Joshua Fry, joint author, was well known as a surveyor and colonel in command of the Virginia forces against the French in 1754. He died May 31st, whilst conducting the expedition to the Ohio. The Henry map is so rare as to be almost unknown. Copies of these maps are found in the Library of Congress.

One of the "gems" in the large collection of maps in the Library of Congress is the well-executed map drawn by Washington, himself, with the notes written in his own clear handwriting. It is perhaps the most interesting document extant on early land grants on the Great Kanawha and is here described in full. Although it has no distinctive title, it may be called " A plan of the tracts of land on the Great Kanawha River covering the interests of George Washington in that district. Copied by Washington from the original surveys dated 1771–1775." It measures 64¾ by 22½ inches.

By adding a flap 7¾ by 8 inches, at the necessary point, additional width has been given the map to show tract N°. 8, which lay on the " Poketellico Creek." The spaces on the map which would otherwise be blank have been filled in with separate notes concerning each survey. A margin of thirteen inches is left blank at the foot of the map. These lands on the Great Kanawha were surveyed in eight different tracts. They begin a few miles above the mouth of the river and lying on one side or the other of the river, extend to Blaine Island at Charleston, West Virginia.

Tract No. 1 begins near the mouth of the river, extends along the west side and contains 10,990 acres. The note describing this tract is headed:

A Table
to explain Plat N° 1
Patented in the name
of
Geo: Washington 15th Decr.
1772

This gives survey notes and ends as follows:

Pursuant to an Order of the Honble. the Govr. & Council of Virginia dated the 15th day of December, 1769.——

I have Surveyed the Lands mentioned in this Plat as part of the 200,000 acres, Granted for the use of the Officers & Soldiers mentioned in the said order.

[Signed] W. Crawford Survr.
of the Soldr. Land
June, — 1771

Cape Henry

Currituck Inlet

Roanoke Inlet

A MAP
of the INHABITED part of
VIRGINIA
containing the whole PROVINCE of
MARYLAND
with Part of
PENSILVANIA, NEW JERSEY & NORTH CAROLINA
Drawn by
Joshua Fry & Peter Jefferson
in 1751.

To the Right Honourable George Dunk Earl of Halifax first Lord Commissioner
and to the Rest of the Right Honourable and Honourable Commissioners for TRADE and PLANTATIONS
This Map is most humbly Inscribed to their Lordships
By their Lordships
Most Obliged & most devoted humble Servt Thos Jefferys.

TITLE PAGE OF FRY AND JEFFERSON MAP

Tract No. 2 lies farther up the river on the east side and contains 7894 acres. The accompanying note reads:

A Table to explain Plat No. 2
Patented in the Names of
George Muse for 100
Doctr. Jas. Craik 1794
Wm. Bronaugh 6000

Total of the Tract..7894 acres

Gives survey notes and ends:

Made pursuant to the order &c.
[Signed] Wm. Crawford
Survr. Offr. & Soldr. Ld.
14 July 1775

Tract No. 3 adjoins tract No. 2 on the east side of the river and contains 7276 acres. The accompanying note reads:

Plat No. 3
Patented in the Names of

	acres
Geo. Washington for.....	3953
George Muse	3323
Total of the Tract.....	7276

the whole now belongs to G W

Gives survey notes and ends:

Made pursuant to an Order of the Governr. & Council
[Signed] Wm. Crawford
Sr. Offr. & Soldr. Ld.
July 1773

Tract No. 4 is on the west side of the river opposite tract No. 3, and contains 4232 acres. The accompanying note reads:

A Table to explain Plat
No. 4
Patented in the Name
of Doctr. Jas. Craik

Gives survey notes and ends:

Pursuant to an Order of the Honble. the Govr. & Council of Virginia dated the 15th day of Decemr. 1769

I have surveyed the Lands mentioned in this Plat as part of the 200,000 acres Granted for the use of the officers and soldiers in the said order.

[Signed] Wm. Crawford
Survr. of the Soldr. Land
June 1771

Tract No. 5 on the east side of the river contained 21,941 acres. No survey notes of this tract are given and the surveyor is not named. The accompanying note reads:

Tract No. 5
is Patente [:]
[words erased]

	acres
The heirs of Col. Fry for his deficiency at the last distribution	7242
Jno Savage Do the same	2572
Thos. Bullet for his full proportion	2500
William Wright for his	2500
John David Woelpert for his full proportion	600
Colonel Adam Stephens for his Second dividend	2100
Colonel Andrew Lewis for his Second dividend	2100
Capt. Peter Hog for his second Dividend	2100
	21714
Unappropriated in this Tract	227
Total therein	21941

Tract No. 6 on the west side of the river, sometimes referred to as the "Pocatellico survey," contains 2000 acres. There are no notes relating to this survey on the large map. The Library of Congress has a separate manuscript note relating to it. This reads in part: "Surveyed for George Washington, assignee of Charles Myn Thruston, a Lieutenant in the Virginia Regiment, by Virtue of the Governor's warrant and agreeable to the Royal Proclamation of 1763. Two Thousand acres of land in Fincastle County." Full survey notes follow dated April 18, 1774, and signed Jno. Floyd, asst., Wm. T. Preston, S.F.C., these letters standing for Surveyor of Fincastle County.

Tract No. 7 on the east side of the river opposite tract No. 6 contains 2950 acres, and the accompanying note reads:

Copy of a Survey
made by Mr. Saml. Lewis 6 Novr.
1774
for G: Washington for 2950
Acres — Plat No 7

Surveyed for George Washington 2950 acres of land (by Virtue of a Warrant for 5000 acres granted by his Excellency the Governor to said Washington agreeable to His Majesty's Proclamation issued in the year 1763) lying in the County of Botetourt on the No East side of the Great Kanahwa, about a mile and a half above the Pokitellico Survey. . . .

Gives survey notes. On the reverse side of the separate of the manuscript note on tract No. 6, this same notice on tract No. 7 is given. This tract is the one which lies farthest from the mouth of the river, and the note to it on the large map is the one in which Washington used the words, "Copy of."

Tract No. 8 lies north of the river and contains 6788 acres. The accompanying note reads:

No 8 Is Patented in the Names of

Andrew Wagener for	2572 acres
John West	1400
Col. Mercer	2816
Total	6788

No survey notes are given and the surveyor is not named.

Washington mentions the project to secure valuable lands in the "King's part" to William Crawford, his land agent in the matter of the western lands, in a letter written from Mount Vernon, September 21, 1767. There had evidently been a previous mention of the same subject, though no previous letter from Washington to Crawford seems to exist. The letter of September 21, 1767, with subsequent letters between Washington and Crawford, edited by C. W. Butterfield, and published in 1877, give much information concerning Washington's western land holdings. There are also many letters in the "Writings of Washington," edited by Sparks, and in the edition by Ford, which are interesting in connection with this large map.

William Crawford was born in Virginia, learned surveying under Washington, and served under him in 1758, marching with the Virginia troops to Fort Duquesne. In 1766, he moved his family over the mountains to a place in what is now Fayette County, Pennsylvania, then called "Stewart's Crossings." Here Washington visited him in the fall of 1770, which is noted in Washington's *Journal of a Tour to the Ohio River, 1770.* Crawford accompanied him on this trip, and in the *Journal,* under the dates November 1st–2nd, Washington notes leaving the Ohio River on a short trip up the Great Kanawha River, "to discover what kind of lands lay upon the Kanawha."

The earliest of these surveys made by Crawford on the Great Kanawha are dated June, 1771. Small separate drawings of several of the tracts made by Washington either from drawings furnished by Crawford or from his survey notes are to be found among the Washington papers in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. Washington had Crawford sign these small drawings with their accompanying notes. These drawings were evidently the base of the large map.

The surveys were made under the Proclamation of 1754 issued by Governor Dinwiddie and reads in part as follows:

For an encouragement to all who voluntarily enter into the said [military] service, I do hereby notify and promise, by and with the advice and consent of His Majesty's Council of this Colony, that over & above their pay, 200,000 acres of His Majesty, the King of Great Britain's Lands, on the east side of the River Ohio, within this dominion (100,000 acres to be contiguous to the said Fort, and the other 100,000 acres to be on or near the River Ohio) shall be laid off & granted to such per-

sons who by their voluntary engagement and good behavior in the said service, shall deserve the same; and I further promise that said lands shall be divided amongst them immediately after the performance of the said service. . . .

Washington was keenly interested in these lands, both on his own account and in the interest of other officers, filing their claims for them, bearing much of the expense and watching over the interests of all. In time he acquired the claims of a number of the officers.

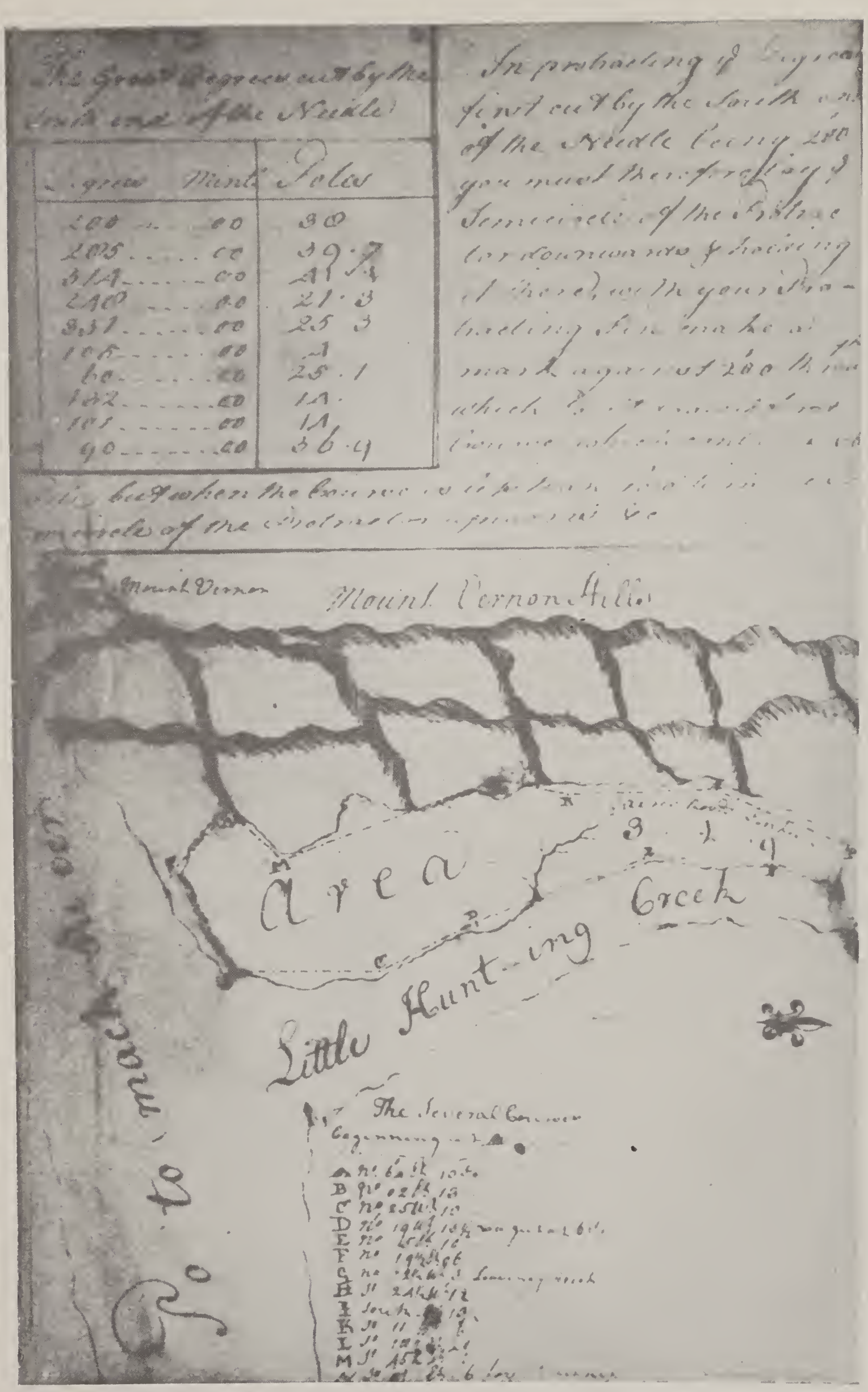
In a letter written in 1770 to Lord Botetourt, Governor of Virginia, protesting against the Walpole grant which threatened to include much of the 200,000 acres claimed by the officers and soldiers under the above Proclamation of 1754, Washington says, "The exigency of affairs, or the policy of government make it necessary to continue these lands in a dormant state for some time." This evidently referred to the King's proclamation of 1763 prohibiting all governors from granting warrants of lands to the westward of the sources of the rivers which run into the Atlantic, and forbidding all persons purchasing such lands or settling on them without special license from the Crown. In the letter to Crawford dated September 21, 1767, quoted above, Washington, in speaking of this proclamation says, "I can never look upon that proclamation in any other light (but this I say between ourselves) than as a temporary expedient to quiet the minds of the Indians. It must fall, of course, in a few years, especially when those Indians consent to our occupying the lands."

In a letter, dated April 3, 1775, to Lord Dunmore, Washington speaks of the Patents having been issued "under your Lordship's signature & the seal of the Colony, ever since the first of December, 1773." It, however, seems as though Washington must have obtained patents for part of these lands earlier than December, 1773, for he advertises his lands on the Ohio River and the ten thousand acres on the Great Kanawha contained in tract No. 1 in the *Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser,* August 20, 1773, vol. i, No. 1, and says he has obtained patents for these lands. He also advertised his lands in various other newspapers of the time, such as the *Pennsylvania Gazette,* September 22, 1772, and later in the *Pennsylvania Packet,* April 27, 1784, and the *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette,* February 20, 1796.

The advertisements seem to have been for the purpose of leasing the lands for periods of years up to the year 1796, when he advertises the lands for sale, but names no price. He speaks of his purpose to sell his western holdings in a letter to Presley Neville in 1794. In this letter, he offers the lands on the Great Kanawha at three dollars and a quarter per acre for the whole body of land, with seven years' credit and without requiring a part of the purchase money to be paid down. If sold separately, a fourth of the purchase money was to be paid down, and for some of the tracts, particularly tract No. 1, more than three dollars and a quarter an acre would be necessary.

Washington's holdings on the Great Kanawha as shown on the map were not sold, however, and at the time of his death his will shows that he still owned tract No. 1, 10,990 acres; tract No. 3, 7276 acres; tract No. 6, 2000 acres, and tract No. 7, 2950 acres, the whole valued at $200,000.

The Library of Congress has a fine manuscript copy of the map made by Nicholas King, the title of which reads: "A Map of Lands situated on



PROBABLY THE FIRST SURVEY OF MOUNT VERNON MADE BY WASHINGTON WHEN FIFTEEN YEARS OLD, ABOUT 1746

the Great Kanawha River, near its confluence with the Ohio. On a scale of 200 Poles to an Inch. Copied by N. King." Tract No. 8 and the survey notes have been omitted from this copy, and the wording of the inscriptions has been somewhat changed.

Washington, as above stated, advertised these lands for sale in various journals of the day, the earliest of which appeared in *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*, for August 20, 1773. At the end of this, he speaks of "their contiguity to the seat of government which more than probably will be fixed at the mouth of the Great Kanawha."

The Washington tracts of land lie in the coal regions of the Great Kanawha Valley, portions of the tracts in Mason, Putnam, and Kanawha Counties, W. Va.

A map issued in 1867 by John S. Swann at Charleston, West Virginia, shows several of the Washington tracts as well as many other grants. It is entitled, "Title map of the coal field of the Great Kanawha Valley, West Virginia, United States of America."

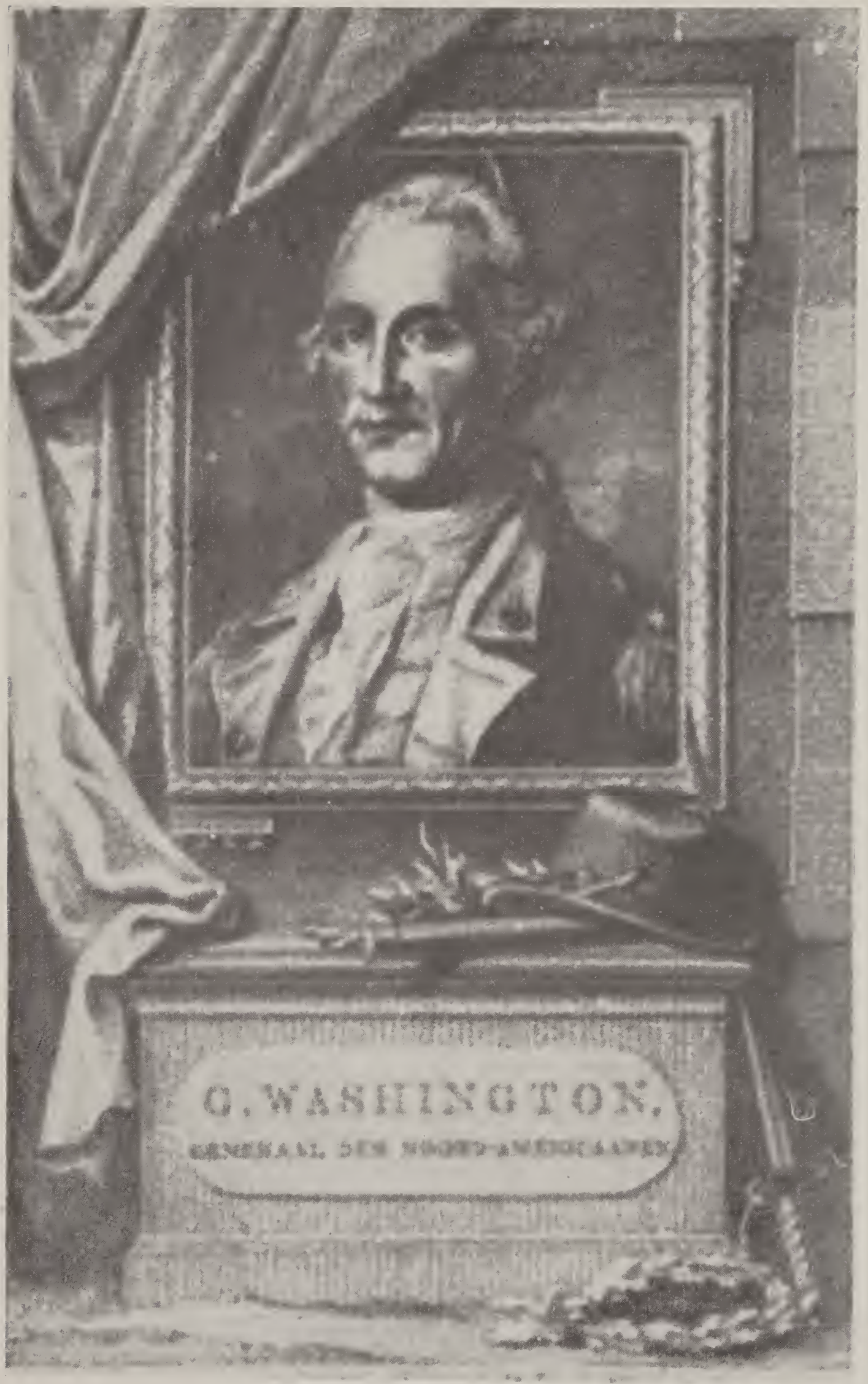
There are no large towns on the Great Kanawha from Charleston to Mt. Pleasant at the mouth of the river, St. Albans (formerly Coalmouth) being the largest with about 1200 inhabitants. This town is at the mouth of the Coal River and lies on tract No. 6, of the Washington lands.

Most of the maps used by Washington during the Revolutionary War were made by Robert Erskine, commissioned by him as Geographer of the United States, in 1778, and also Thomas Hutchins, in 1781. The original manuscripts of the former are found in the New York Historical Society Library. Washington, no doubt, would have accomplished this work, much to his own and our satisfaction, but his duties were at that time in saving our country instead of mapping it. He, however, made a few sketches for temporary use and expressed in the following letter the need of such material:

> To the President of Congress,
> Head-Quarters, Morristown, 26 January, 1777.
> . . . The want of accurate maps of the country, which has hitherto been the scene of war, has been of great disadvantage to me. I have in vain endeavored to procure them and have been obliged to make shift with such sketches as I could trace out from my own observation and that of gentlemen around me. I really think, if gentlemen of known character and probity could be employed in making maps, from actual survey, of the roads, of the rivers and bridges and fords over them and of the mountains and passes through them it would be of the greatest advantage."

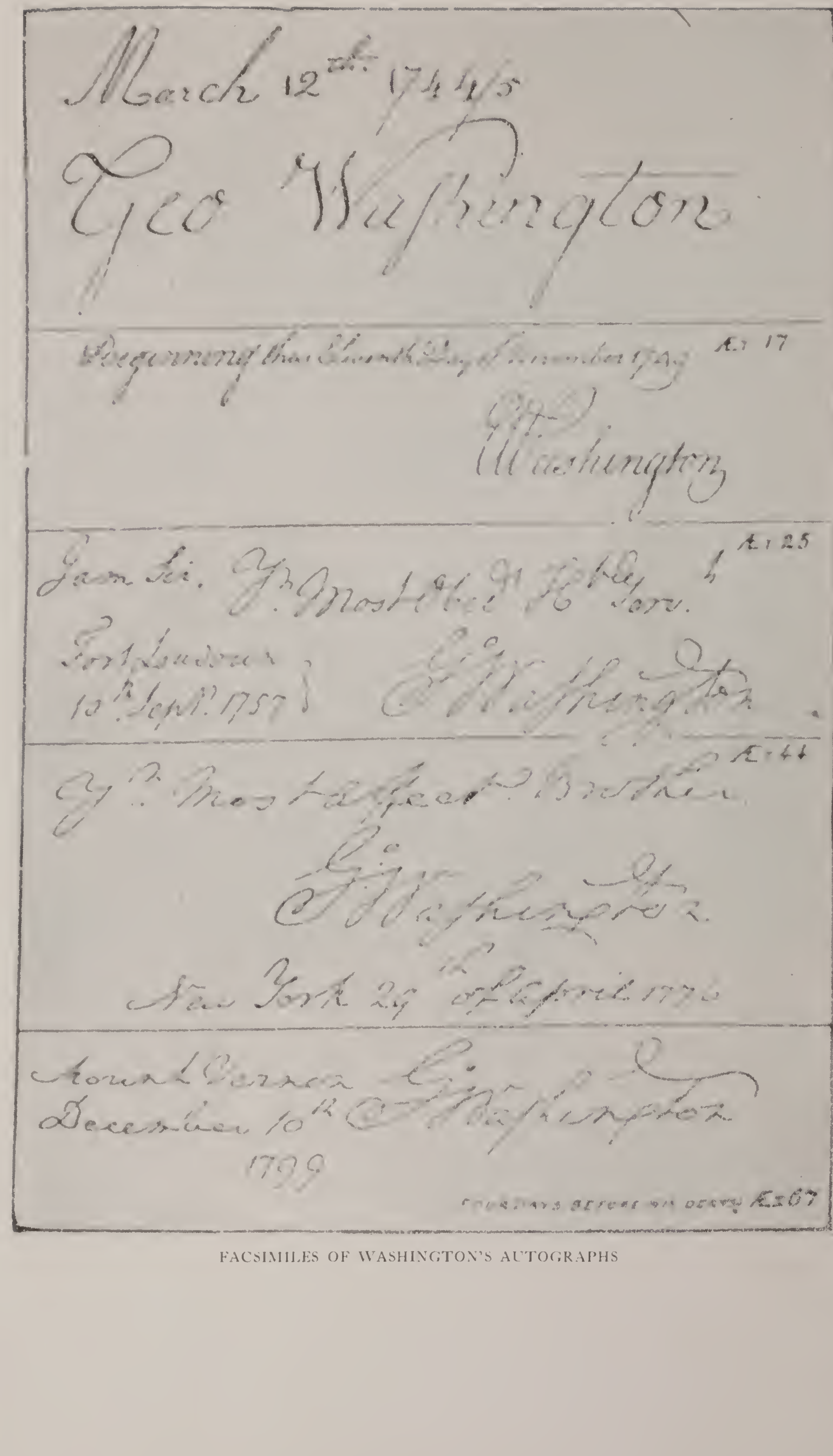
About the last map made by Washington, in 1784, is the one entitled, "Sketch of the Country Between the Waters of Potomack and those of Youghagany and Monongahela as sketched by Gen[l.] Washington," a copy of which is reproduced in U. S. House of Representatives, Nineteenth Congress, first session. *Report No. 228,* May 22, 1826. This map shows Washington's interest in inland navigation, especially in connection with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

In a work entitled, "Letters from His Excellency, General Washington to Arthur Young, Esq.," London, 1801, is a map entitled, "A Map of General Washington's Farm of Mount Vernon from a Drawing Transmitted by the General," which is the earliest printed one of which we have knowledge. The original drawing accompanied a letter addressed by Washington to Arthur Young, dated Philadelphia, December 12, 1793, published in the above work. The letter concerned a plan for renting the various farms comprising the Mount Vernon estate. The map shows the farms, the acreage of the fields,



CONTEMPORANEOUS PORTRAIT

FROM "VADERLANDSCHE BISTORIE" TE AMSTERDAM, J. ALLARD, 1790


March 12th 1744/5
Geo Washington

Beginning this Eleventh Day of November 1749 Æ: 17
G° Washington

I am Sir, Yr Most Obedt Hble Servt. Æ: 25
Fort Loudoun 10th Septr 1757
G° Washington

Yr Most affect. Brother Æ: 44
G° Washington
New York 29th of April 1776

Mount Vernon
December 10th
1799
G° Washington
FOUR DAYS BEFORE HIS DEATH Æ: 67

FACSIMILES OF WASHINGTON'S AUTOGRAPHS

position of buildings, the woodland, and the cleared but uncultivated fields, the latter described by a list of references in the upper left corner, which is marked " fac simile," being a reproduction of Washington's handwriting.

Another interesting plan, the original manuscript of which is at Mount Vernon, is the one referred to in Washington's letter to Samuel Vaughan, dated " Mount Vernon, 12 November, 1787," which reads:

Dear Sir.

The letter without date, with which you were pleased to honor me, accompanied by a plan of this seat, came to my hands by the last Post. For both I pray you to accept my hearty and sincere thanks. The plan describes with accuracy the houses, walks and shrubs, except in the front of lawn, west of the court-yard. There the plan differs from the original. In the former you have closed the prospect with trees along the walk to the gate; whereas in the latter the trees terminate with two mounds of earth, one on each side, on which grow weeping willows, leaving an open and full view of the distant woods. The mounds are sixty yards apart. I mention this, because it is the only departure from the original . . .

The plan was not reproduced until recently, being first used in Paul Wilstach's book on Mount Vernon.

It would be misleading for the writer to state that he had described all the known maps of Washington. Many

may be scattered through the libraries and private collections of the United States and many may be temporarily, (we hope), buried in cellars and closets, boxes and trunks. I have, however, described the most important in the collection of the Library of Congress, outside of the many plats to accompany surveys. That they are well executed as to accuracy, penmanship, and drawing, goes without saying, for this remarkable man seems to have had the divine inspiration of doing well whatever he undertook.

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